

*Ourebia cottoni*, sp. n.

About the size of *O. goslingi*.

Fur rather longer than in *O. goslingi* (25 mm. against 20 in the latter species).

General colour above paler and brighter, tawny fading to buff on the flanks, while in the western species it is a dark clay-colour fading to ochraceous. Individual hairs of the back drab for basal two thirds, buff for the remainder, with minute black tips; in *O. goslingi* they are pale smoke-grey below, dark brown distally, broken by a bright buff ring below the black point. The dark frontal blaze so characteristic of the latter species almost entirely absent in *O. cottoni*. Tail very short (30 mm.), less than one third the length of that of *O. goslingi*. Horns stout and well-ridged, as in the Welle species, but not equalling those of *O. haggardi*.

Skull broader and stouter, shorter in front of the orbits (nasals 60 mm., as compared with 70 mm. in *O. goslingi*).

Dimensions:—

“Height at shoulder 23'; girth 21"; total length, nostrils to tip of tail, 44½". Weight, whole, 38 lbs.”

Tail, dried, 30 mm.

Skull: greatest length 170 mm.; basilar length 146; greatest width 80; length of rostrum in front of orbit 89; length of nasals 60; length of frontals 50; interorbital breadth 57; bullæ 20.

*Hab.* Surgoi Rock, Guas-ngishu Plateau, 1° N. lat., 35° E. long. Alt. 7000'.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 7. 12. 29. 1. Original number 240. Killed 15th August, 1902. Collected and presented by Major P. H. G. Powell-Cotton.

XXVIII.—Notes on the Coleopterous Genus *Oniticellus* and Descriptions of some new Species from India. By GILBERT J. ARROW.

ALTHOUGH the Madagascan species are now excluded from the genus *Oniticellus*, its geographical distribution is still peculiar and many of the species are very abundant and wide-ranging. This is the case with several of the European species, whose correct nomenclature is in some disorder owing to the imperfect knowledge of their distribution and of the

original types of the species possessed by the authors of works dealing with the European Coleoptera. The recently published edition of Heyden, Reitter, and Weise's Catalogue enumerates five species of *Oniticellus*, viz., *O. festivus*, Steven, *pallipes*, Fabr., *pallens*, Oliv., *speciosus*, Costa, and *fulvus*, Goetze.

Mr. C. O. Waterhouse, in the Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) ii. 1898, p. 75, expressed doubt as to the correct identification of *O. pallipes*, Fabr., and Mulsant had long before (Coléopt. de France, Lamell. 1842, p. 98) expressed a doubt whether the European species so long known as *O. pallipes* was correctly so called, but the question has never advanced beyond the stage of conjecture. A careful comparison establishes the entire distinctness of the two forms. *O. pallipes* was described from a specimen from Coromandel now in the British Museum and is a species which I have seen from all parts of India, but from nowhere outside that area. The European species has a general resemblance to it, but is decidedly larger, much more shining, and more strongly and closely punctured upon the prothorax. Its range is from Arabia, Persia, and Turkestan, by the northern shore of the Mediterranean to Italy and the south of France. It has many times been carefully described, but as no existing name is available, I propose to call it

*Oniticellus nitidicollis*, sp. n.

For my type I have selected a specimen from Sardinia in the British Museum.

The type specimen of *O. pallipes*, Fabr., is a male of a form of which I have seen only two other examples, one from Karachi and the other from Madura. In this form the three carinæ upon the head are less strong than in the ordinary form, the external one is at the extreme margin of the clypeus, and the innermost one is gently curved and not angulated. The specimens were taken in the same localities as males of the common form and are exactly like the latter in all other respects, so that I consider them to represent only a sexual aberration. In a later description in the Syst. Eleuth. p. 63, Fabricius has added, as male characters, a diagnosis of the horned form, which is really the female, an error which has been repeatedly made since.

*O. speciosus*, Costa, is described by its author as a rare Calabrian species. In the European Catalogue *O. nasicornis*, Reiche, is given as a synonym of it, but although I have seen no European specimens it is evident from the figure and description that it is not that species, but *O. intermedius*,

Reiche, which is often mistaken for it. *O. nasicornis*, Reiche (of which also we have the type), is a species which I have seen only from Abyssinia, but *O. intermedius* is abundant throughout a large part of Africa and may therefore cross the Mediterranean. Reiche's species, however, were described in 1847, while Costa's descriptions are dated 1849, so that the name of *speciosus* is a synonym of *intermedius*, Reiche. Mr. Péringuey, in his 'Catalogue of the Lamellicornia of South Africa,' has incorrectly described this species under the name of *O. nasicornis*, Reiche.

*O. pallens*, Oliv., ranges from N.W. India across Arabia to Somaliland, and thence through Northern Africa into Corsica.

*O. fulvus*, Goeze, has a wide distribution in Europe and extends as far east as Turkestan and as far south as Algeria.

*O. festivus*, Steven, is a rare and peculiar species found in Asia Minor and the Caucasus.

The Oriental *Oniticellus vertagus*, Fabr., has been many times described. The type of Fabricius's description is a female. The male was first described by Erichson as *O. bifurcatus* and again by White as *O. bifurcalis*. Overlooking all these earlier descriptions, Fairmaire described both sexes in 1891 as *O. pictisternum* and two years later as *O. tonkineus*, taking in the first case a well-developed male and in the second case an imperfectly developed one for his type.

The following new species of this genus are in the British Museum.

*Oniticellus indicus*, sp. n.

Niger; antennis, femoribus, prothoracis angulis anticis, elytrorum apicibus, pygidio corporeque subtus plus minusve testaceis; prothorace fortiter punctato, late canaliculato; elytris sulcatis, interstitiis modice convexis, minute irregulariter punctatis.

♂. Capite late carinato, carina medio obtusa, angulis acute dentata; prothorace medio elevato, antice obtuse trituberculato.

♀. Capite leviter bicarinato; prothorace antice obsolete carinato. Long. 7-10.5 mm.; lat. max. 4-6 mm.

*Hab.* S. India, Malabar, Anamalai Hills, Nilgiri Hills (3000-6000 feet).

Found in dung by Capt. A. K. W. Downing and Mr. H. L. Andrewes.

Black and moderately shining, with the lower surface, femora, antennæ, front angles of the pronotum, the apices of the elytra, and the pygidium more or less testaceous. The clypeus is punctured and its front margin barely sinuated.

The prothorax is transverse, rather strongly punctured and lightly channelled along the middle. The elytra are sulcate, with the interstices convex and finely irregularly punctured. The pygidium and lower surface of the abdomen are opaque.

♂. The head is armed with a transverse carina occupying the whole width between the eyes, produced a little upwards and outwards at each end and very obtusely toothed in the middle. The prothorax is elevated into a broad hump, nearly straight in front, but forming a blunt tubercle on each side and with the anterior declivity smooth and nearly perpendicular. There is a large rounded depression in each front angle.

♀. The clypeus is more strongly and closely punctured, there is a curved anterior carina and a nearly straight posterior one. The prothorax has a slight blunt carina a little behind the front margin.

This species is allied to *O. femoratus*, Illig., but larger and relatively broader, with the elytra less broadly and deeply sulcate and the intervals broader and more opaque. In the male the angles of the cephalic carina are much more pointed.

*Oniticellus affinis*, sp. n.

Niger; capite leviter ænescente, antennis, femoribus, prothoracis angulis anticis, elytrorum apicibus, pygidio corporeque subtus testaceis; clypeo prothoraceque crebre punctatis, hoc medio sulcato; elytris striatis, interstitiis convexis, minute et irregulariter punctatis; pygidio abdomineque opacis.

♂. Capite late carinato, carinæ summa fere rectilinea, angulis extus acute productis; prothorace medio elevato, antice breviter obtuse producto.

♀. Capite bicarinato; prothorace antice vix carinato.

Long. 8-9 mm.; lat. max. 4.5-5 mm.

*Hab.* Manipur, Tavoy (Burma); Renong (Siam).

This species is black and moderately shining, with the head and anterior part of the prothorax slightly metallic, and the antennæ, the femora, the anterior angles of the pronotum, the apical margins of the elytra, the pygidium and lower surface of the body testaceous. The clypeus is very finely punctured, the prothorax strongly and closely punctured and longitudinally sulcate at the middle. The elytra are sub-opaque and sulcate, with the interstices minutely and inconspicuously punctured and the alternate ones a little more convex.

♂. The head is armed with a broad carina, which is produced outwards at the angles, but nearly straight at the

summit. The prothorax is elevated into a dorsal hump produced bluntly forwards and very minutely notched in front.

♀. There are two carinæ on the head, but none on the pronotum.

This is exceedingly like the first-described species, but a little smaller, relatively narrower, and more finely punctured. The cephalic carina of the male is not toothed in the middle and the thoracic hump is narrower and scarcely bituberculate in front.

*Oniticellus modestus*, sp. n.

Fusco-ferrugineus, opacus, metasterni medio pedibusque sat nitidis; capite cupreo-nigro prothoracisque medio fusco, nonnunquam vage cupreo: sat elongatus, depressus, toto inermis; capite emarginato, irregulariter punctato; prothorace densissime punctato, postice leviter sulcato; elytris striatis, minute granulatis, apicibus pygidioque setiferis.

♀. Clypeo paulo magis producto, tibiis anticis fortius dentatis. Long. 5·5-7·5 mm.; lat. max. 3-4 mm.

*Hab.* S. India, Belgaum, Calicut.

Dull opaque ferruginous brown, with the legs and the middle of the metasternum shining, the head slightly coppery, and the prothorax vaguely darker at the middle and sometimes feebly metallic. The body is elongate and very flat above, and there is no armature of any kind in either sex. The head has intermixed coarse and fine punctures and the clypeus is gently emarginate in front. The pronotum is densely, and at the side rugosely, punctured, and there is a lightly impressed longitudinal line at the middle of the basal half. The sides and base are gently and continuously rounded and the front angles very blunt. The elytra are finely striated and the interstices flat and minutely granulated. The elytra near the extremities and the pygidium are furnished with short stiff bristles, and the metasternum is strongly punctured. The front tibiæ are armed with four strong teeth.

The female has the clypeus a little produced and the front tibiæ rather broader and more strongly toothed.

In some of the species of *Oniticellus* the more pronounced sexual characters, contrary to the general rule, are those of the female sex, and certain authors have therefore described the females as males. I have proved by dissection that the sexes of the present species are correctly discriminated.

This species seems to be the southern representative of the

North Indian *Oniticellus imbellis*, Bates, and was named by Reiche *O. fuscopunctatus*, F.; but by the kindness of Dr. Adam Bóving, of Copenhagen, who has made for me an excellent drawing of the Fabrician type specimen, I am able to state that that is a species of *Onthophagus*, very much smaller and entirely unlike the insect here described. Reiche is responsible also for the manuscript name "*modestus*, Dej.," which I have adopted.

*Oniticellus modestus* is closely related to the African *O. spinipes*, Roth, for which Mr. Péringuey has formed a new genus *Tiniocellus*, which he has widely separated from *Oniticellus* by reason of his counting only eight joints in the antenna. This is an error, for there are nine joints, and these species cannot be separated from *O. cinctus*, F., *planatus*, Lap., *formosus*, Chev., &c.

I may take this opportunity of noting that Mr. Péringuey has incorrectly given the last-named species as a synonym of the S.-African *O. pictus*, Hausm. *O. formosus*, Chev., is a West-African insect, larger than *O. pictus* and differing in the form of the clypeus and other respects.

XXIX.—On the Generic Names of the Rupicaprine Ruminants known as Serows and Gorals. By R. I. POCKOCK, Superintendent of the Zoological Society's Gardens.

THE rupicaprine ruminants commonly known as Serows and Gorals were first dismembered from the genus *Antelope* by Hamilton Smith in 1827 (Griffith's An. Kingdom, v. p. 352). This author grouped under the subgenus *Næmorhedus*\* the three species *sumatrensis*, Shaw, *duvaucelii*, H. Sm., and *goral*, Hardw. One of these must be the type of *Næmorhedus*.

In 1834 Hodgson (P. Z. S. 1834, p. 85) adopted *Næmorhedus* for the same species, with the addition of the Nepalese form described by himself as *thar*. Although clearly recognizing that the four species ought to be affiliated in pairs, *N. goral* and *N. duvaucelii* forming a group apart from *N. sumatrensis* and *N. thar*, Hodgson himself did not divide *Næmorhedus* into two genera or subgenera, nor select one of the species as its type.

The next writer to deal systematically with the question, namely Ogilby (P. Z. S. 1836, p. 138), pointed out that

\* I preserve the original spelling of the name throughout this paper, and ignore the emendations that have been proposed.